

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,148,673 to Brown. Applicants respectfully submit that Brown does not anticipate these claims because Brown does not teach a sensor provided with a “first sealed volume” and a “second sealed volume.” Instead, as we shall explain, Brown teaches only a single sealed volume, namely, space 22. At the bottom of space 22, where sensor die 30 is located, the seal is maintained by the eutectic bond between sensor layer 28 and bond surface 26. Column 4, lines 61-67. More specifically, this seal is located at the bottom of the downwardly depending sidewalls of the sensor die’s 30 upside-down U-shaped form, but its purpose is not to seal the area below the sensor die 30. Rather than being sealed, this area below sensor die 30 is open to the external environment, in order to allow external media to pass through flag opening 27 and surface opening 25 and exert pressure on the bottom surface of sensor die 30. Several passages support the contention that the volume including spaces 20, 25, 27, and the area immediately below the sensor die 30 is not sealed. In speaking of sensor die 30, Brown mentions it having a “first surface” and a “second surface”. The second surface faces up to cap 24, and is within the sealed space 22. Column 3, lines 62-63 (“Port 22 is partially filled with silicone gel. Silicone gel 52 seals the second surface of sensor die 30.”). The first surface is the bottom of sensor die 30, and according to Brown the “first surface of sensor die 30 may be exposed to a hostile environment”. Column 5, lines 12-14. Thus, the space below the upside down U-shape of sensor 30 is exposed to the outside environment and is not sealed. The only sealed volume in Brown is, as mentioned above, area 22; specifically, “the hermetic seal [between sensor 30 and mounting flag 14] prevents hostile media that enters port 20 from spreading into the region within port 22 and prevents deterioration and damage to the circuitry and interconnect housed within port 22.” Therefore, although Brown teaches two volumes, namely 22 and 20, it does not teach sealing both of them. Instead, it teaches sealing only one of them. Accordingly, because Brown does not identically teach every limitation of claims 1-8, Applicants submit that these claims are patentable over Brown.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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